product especially mangoes in overseas markets. Research efforts are on for the use of modern technologies such as Controlled/ Modified Atmoshphere technologies in transportation for increasing the shelf-life of perishable products;

(iv) Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilties at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items such as fresh fruits and vegetables;

The above measures have greatly helped the growers/exporters In the export of horticultural items and increasing exports of these items.

(d) and (e) The Government has set up integrated cold storage and cargo handling facilities for perishables at the Indira Gandhi International Airport at Delhi and the Bangalore Airport. The Government has also set up walk-in-type of cold storages at the Calcutta, Chennai, Guwahati, Mumbai and Thiruvananthapuram Airports for handling perishable export cargo. Projects for setting up of bigger cold storage facilities at Chennai, Thiruvananthapuram and Hyderabad Airports are under implementation. These are expected to be operational by early next year.

(f) Does not arise.

Import of Poppy Seeds

24. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently decided to import poppy seeds; if so, the details/background thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have brushed aside the reservations of Revenue Department for import, as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated 13th October, 1998;

(c) if so, what objections Government have received from the Revenue Department;

(d) the detailed conditions for such import; and

(e) the names of the countries from were poppy seeds are to be imported?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (d) Government have permitted import of Poppy seeds against Special Import Licence. The importer shall have to produce a certificiate from the competent authority of the country of origin to the effect that opium poppy have been grown licitly/legally in that country as per requirements of International Narcotics Control Bureau. Import from other countries is prohibited.

(b) and (c) It is not correct to say that Department of Revenue has any reservations on this issue.

(e) Import has been permitted only from the following countries:—

(a) Australia (b) France (c) Turkey (d) Spain (e) Czech (f) Hungary (g) Poland (h) Romania (i) Slovakia and (j) Austria where opium poppy is grown legally.

IIFT Study on Industrial Development in North-East

25. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any executive summary has been prepared on the basis of a study conducted by Indian institute of Foreign Trade on Industrial Development and Export Potential of North-East Region;

(b) if so, the salient feature of the study and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether particular schemes for industrial development and export potential has been suggested for Assam; and

(d) if so, the details and status of its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Following are the salient features of the executive summary of the study of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade's on Industrial development and Export Potential of North-East region:—

1. For enhancement of Indo-Myanmar trade, the study recommends increase in basket of exchangeable goods, liberalisation of bilateral trade, reveiw of export first import later policy, Installation of currency chest, strengthening of infrastructure.